

U. S. offers the better deal for Susan B. Anthony dollars

By Roger Boye

Recent newspaper advertisements for Susan B. Anthony dollar coins have generated questions from several readers.

Q—A rare-coin company is charging \$154 for a complete, 12-piece set of Anthony dollars. Is the price fair? Would the coins make a good investment, as the advertisement suggests? Why were Anthonys withdrawn from circulation?

F. H., Chicago

A—You could get a better price elsewhere. For \$10 you could buy six of the dollars—1979- and 1980-dated Susie B's made in Philadelphia, Denver and San Francisco—from government stockpiles.

Most local dealers charge less than \$12 for a 1981 uncirculated coin set, which includes the three 1981 Anthony dollars (P-D-S mints), as well as other coins. The three remaining Anthonys in a "complete set"—1979-81 proof specimens—each retails for \$6 or less in most coin shops.

Uncle Sam produced about 860 million Anthony dollars during the three years, enough to satisfy collector demand for decades. The coins never were withdrawn from use; they simply failed to circulate, in large part because many consumers mistook them

for quarters.

All Anthonys remain legal tender, although more than 400 million of the coins still are in government storage because they are shunned by the public.

If you want to buy a set of six Anthony dollars from federal stockpiles, send a check for \$10 to the United States Mint, 10001 Aerospace Drive, Lanham, Md. 20706. A bag of 100 dollars costs \$110 from the mint. (Allow several weeks for delivery of the merchandise.)

Q—At least half of my 70 "buffalo nickels" are missing dates. What made the numbers disappear? Do our yearless coins have any special value?

H. K., Morton Grove

A—The numbers were the highest feature of the coin design and gradually wore away as the nickels circulated. A few dealers will pay up to 10 cents each for dateless buffalo nickels, but most pros wouldn't offer you more than face value.

● Questions about coins or paper money? Send your letters to Roger Boye, Chicago Tribune, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want a personal reply and allow at least three weeks for the answer.